

Apr 1st, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Shattered Silence: Unmuting the Voices of Syrian Refugees

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Chapman, Denida; Klodnicki, Laura; Lowry, Megan; and Patzke, Abbie E., "Shattered Silence: Unmuting the Voices of Syrian Refugees" (2015). *The Research and Scholarship Symposium*. 45.

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Shattered Silence: Unmuting the Voices of Syrian Refugees

Dee Chapman, Laura Klodnicki, Megan Lowry, Abbie Patzke

Purpose

The Syrian conflict has displaced twelve million people in the past five years resulting in one of the most devastating forced migrations in global history. Our purpose is to raise awareness of this issue and inspire individuals to aid their distressed neighbors.

Cause & Context

Timeline of Events:

- May 5, 2011 - Syrian troops to Damascus
- August 18, 2011 - U.S. calls for President Assad to step down from power
- June 21, 2012 - Broken ceasefire
- August 15, 2012 - Houla Massacre uncovered
- September 10, 2013 - Removal of Syria's chemical weapons



Refugee Camp Conditions:

Housing: Families typically live in tent cities, although lean-to's are used for overflow housing.

Food: Staples are provided, but families heavily depend on humanitarian aid to fill in the nutrition gaps.

Water: Clean water is not readily accessible, and families fear for their safety when looking for water.

Recycling: Refugees escape the camps in order to re-enter as a new person to receive dual resources and rations.

Current Conditions & Aid

Overview

- Syrian conflict entering fifth year
- 3.9 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt
- 8 million Syrians displaced within Syria
- 12 million Syrians in need of humanitarian aid
- 52% of Syrian refugees are children

Human Rights Violations

- Over 200,000 Syrians killed and over one million injured
- 4.8 million Syrians within the country have little if any access to needed aid (212,000 in besieged areas)
- Stateless children
- Increased risk for exploitation and other injustices

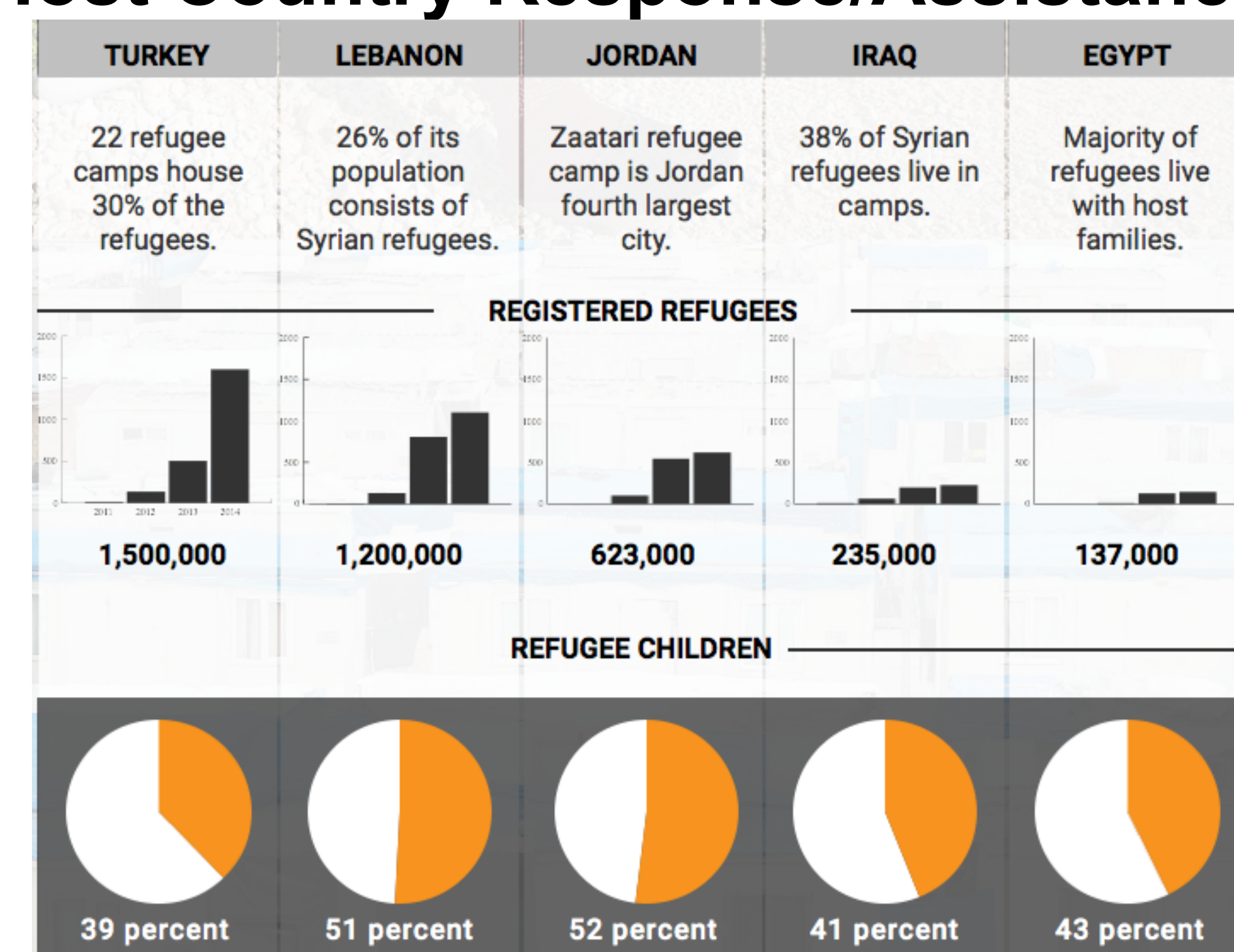
Development

- Syria's development has regressed by four decades
- Estimates indicate that since 2011, life expectancy has shortened by 14-20 years
- The economy has contracted by 40%
- 83% of electricity is out

Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)

- Developed by UNHCR in 2013 to be implemented in 2015-2016
- Represents a paradigm shift in response planning by focusing on resiliency based programs and development
- Only 54% funded by the end of 2014

Host Country Response/Assistance



Economic & Social Implications

Poverty:

The crisis has not only affected Syria, but also the countries in the surrounding area- it has caused immense strains on the resources of neighbouring nations.

The displacement of refugees has caused a disruption to regional trading patterns and commodity prices for consumers.

Refugees do anything they can to make money- selling personal assets is extensive. This increases their current impoverishment and depletes resources they might have if they could return to Syria someday.

Working Conditions:

Sporadic jobs provide unreliable income.

Unskilled labor supplies low-paying wages.

Requirement of a work permit delays obtaining income to provide for the family.

Exploitive working conditions take advantage of this at-risk population.

Child Labor:

Rates have increased drastically since the crisis.

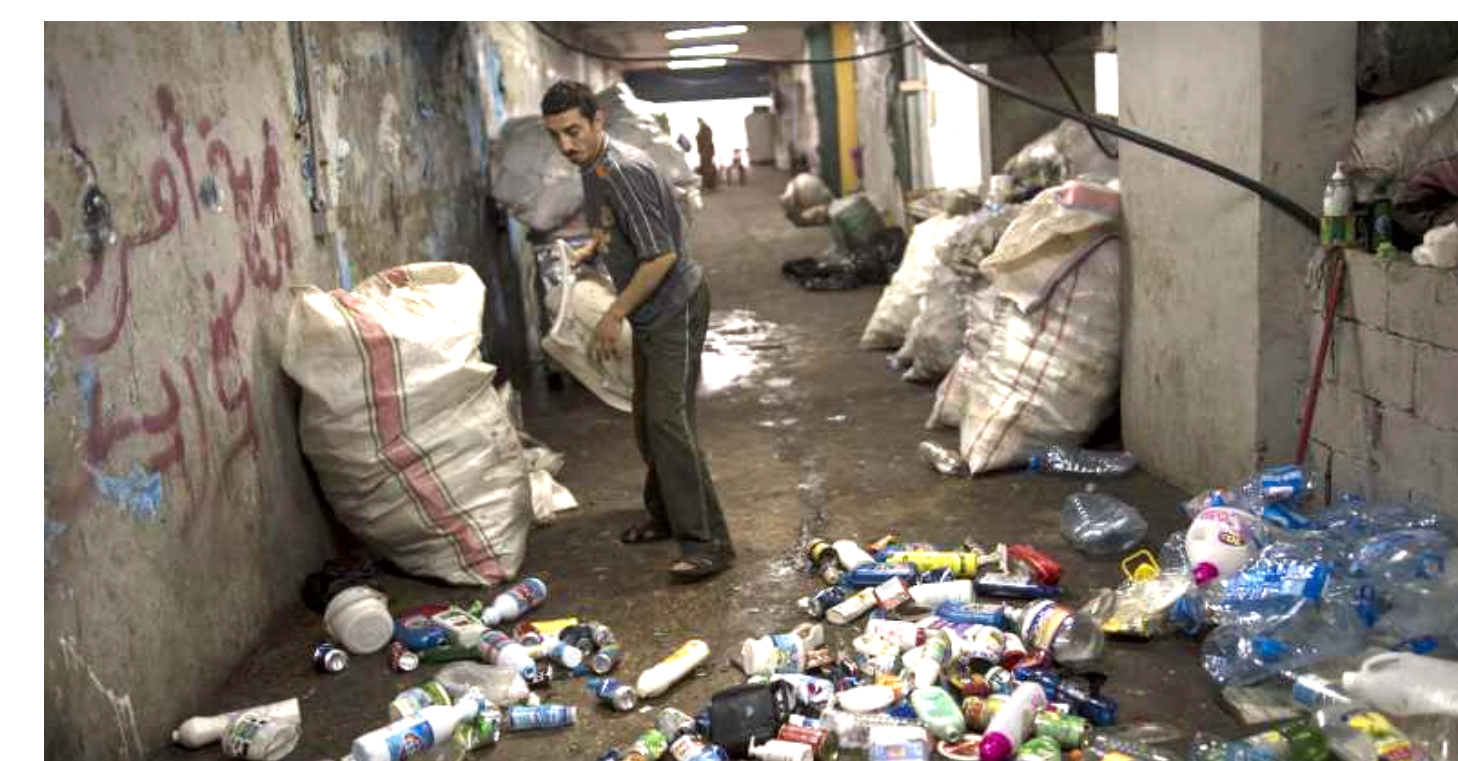
Child rights violations include: killing, maiming, abduction, arbitrary detention, recruitment by armed groups, ill treatment, and sexual violence

Consequences include: profound psychological stress, physical harm, neglect, increased risk of trafficking, and denied access to education

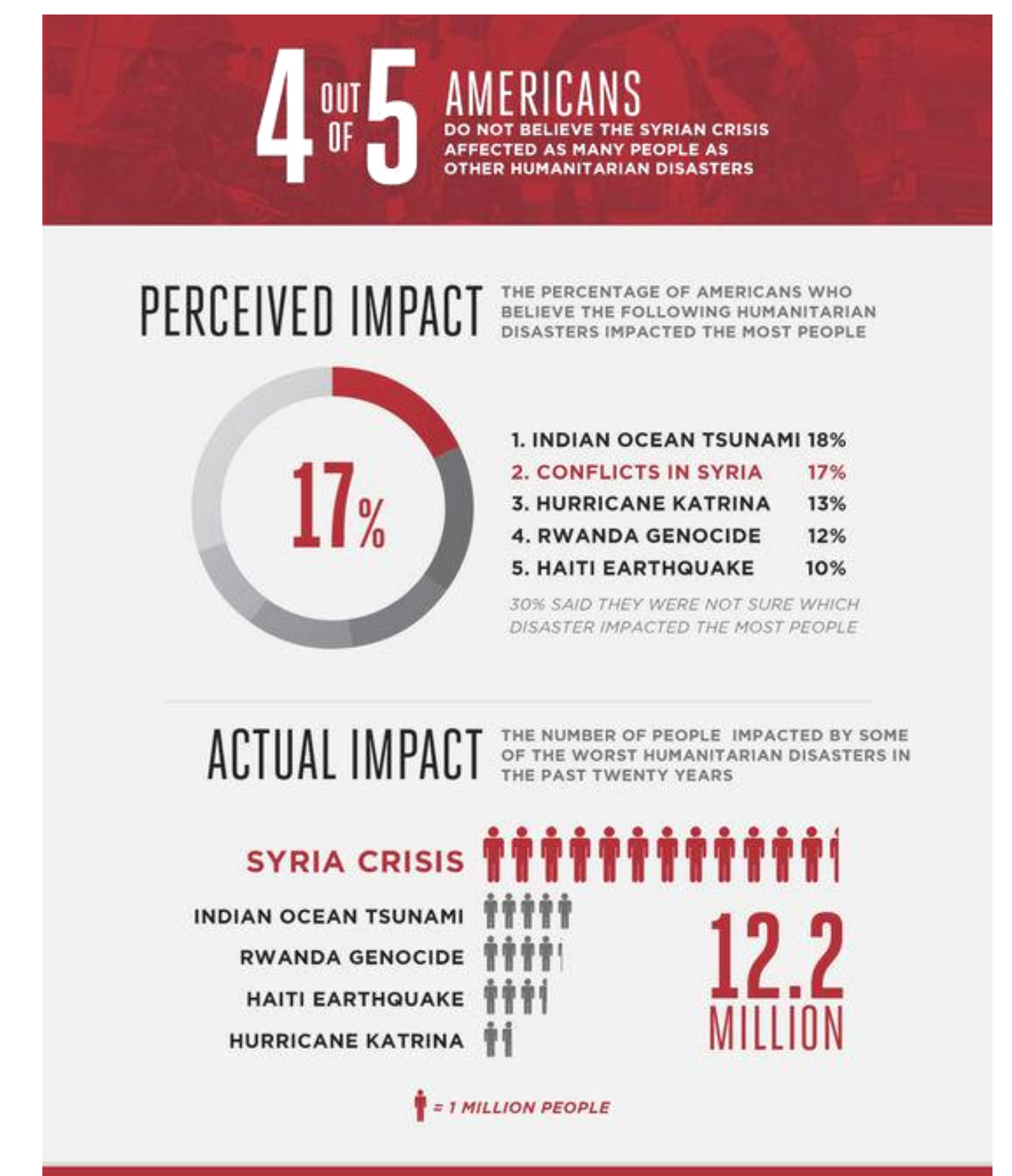
Education: #NoLostGeneration Movement

Initiative by the UN and other NGO's that began October, 2013 to alleviate the negative impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on children.

Despite having only 34% of funding fulfilled, educational enrollment has increased by 35%.



Application



“World Vision raised \$36 million from people donating in the United States in the first year after the Haiti earthquake—\$5.9 million of that in the first week alone. In comparison, as the Syrian conflict moves into its fifth year, the organization has only raised \$2.7 million from private donations in the U.S. So far just 3 percent of World Vision's entire Syria crisis response funding has come from private donors worldwide, making it one of the lowest response rates to a disaster.”- World Vision Report

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